

### **New IBIS Indicator Profile: Overweight among Children and Adolescents**

**January 2006** – UDOH added the Overweight among Children and Adolescents indicator profile to IBIS. A health indicator is a numeric measure that depicts the status of a population or a health system on a core public health construct. An indicator profile is a brief online report that contains numerical data for a health indicator as well as its public health context, including what the current status is and what is being done to improve it. The new Overweight Among Children and Adolescents indicator profile is important because the number of overweight children and adolescents is increasing annually and diseases previously thought to be diseases of adults, such as type 2 diabetes, high blood pressure, and high cholesterol, are now being diagnosed in children and adolescents.

[http://ibis.health.utah.gov/indicator/view/OvrwtChild.Adol\\_Grade\\_Sex.html](http://ibis.health.utah.gov/indicator/view/OvrwtChild.Adol_Grade_Sex.html)

### **New Dental Service for CHEC**

**January 1, 2006** - The Bureau of Managed Health Care began collaborating with the Bureau of Maternal and Child Health to develop a new Early Periodic Screening Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) service for Medicaid clients. CHEC is Utah's federally mandated EPSDT program. Effective July 1, 2006, Medicaid will reimburse qualified providers who apply dental varnish during a CHEC exam for children through age five. Fluoride dental varnish has been found to significantly reduce dental caries.

### **Medicaid Staff Assist Part D Enrollees**

**January 1, 2006** - Staff from Health Care Financing continued to be very involved with educating the dual eligible (clients who have both Medicaid and Medicare) and facilitating their access to prescriptions under the newly-implemented Medicare Part D. Programming changes to the pharmacy payment system were implemented. Education of staff and clients on the new pharmacy program was completed.

### **UCAN Reaches Out to Teachers with Skin Protection Information**

**January 9, 2006** – The Utah Cancer Action Network (UCAN) reached out to elementary school teachers with resource materials to complement their teaching on skin protection. Utah is in the top 10 states for incidence of skin cancer, and it is important to teach skin protection habits when children are young. UCAN promoted available materials through a press release, several interviews on television that included teachers and school nurses talking about curriculum, and an article in the Ogden Standard Examiner. Six schools called in January to order Sun Guy stickers, temporary tattoos, and coloring sheets, and to learn how to order the Sun Wise curriculum available from the Environmental Protection Agency.

### **Winning With Asthma Online Educational Program**

**January 11, 2006** – The Winning With Asthma program was developed by the UDOH and several youth organizations to educate coaches, referees, physical education teachers and others involved in youth sports about asthma. The 30-minute educational program, available at

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[www.WinningWithAsthma.org](http://www.WinningWithAsthma.org), is one of the first of its kind and encourages those involved in youth sports to understand how to help athletes properly manage their asthma during athletic events. The program highlights local professional coaches — Jerry Sloan with the Utah Jazz and John Ellinger with the Salt Lake REAL soccer team — and teaches about proper medication management, ways to prevent exercise-induced asthma, steps to take when athletes are experiencing asthma attacks, asthma triggers, and guidelines specific for cold-weather sports.

### **2004 Fetal Death Data Added to IBIS Query System**

**February 2006** – UDOH added 2004 fetal death data to IBIS. The fetal death data in this IBIS-Q query module are obtained from the Utah Fetal Death Certificate database. The UDOH Office of Vital Records and Statistics maintains the database. Fetal death certificates are required to be filed with the State Registrar of Vital Statistics for all stillbirths that are 21 weeks gestation or greater. Access to the new fetal death data is available at [http://ibis.health.utah.gov/query/module\\_selection/fetmort/FetMortSelection.html](http://ibis.health.utah.gov/query/module_selection/fetmort/FetMortSelection.html)

### **Diabetes Program Receives Telly Awards for Check Your Feet PSA**

**February 2006** - The Utah Diabetes Prevention and Control Program was awarded two Telly awards for its "Check Your Feet" television campaign created in October 2005. Awards were received for local commercial categories - not for profit and health and wellness. The television ads were produced in both English and Spanish and encouraged people with diabetes to check their feet every day to reduce the risk of foot complications associated with diabetes. The commercials were written and produced by W Communications, LLC, the advertising agency of record for the diabetes program.

### **Family Health History – Utah’s Way!**

**February 9, 2006** – Stakeholders from around the state were invited to participate in a planning meeting to develop a vision for Utah regarding promoting family health history. As a result, the Utah Family Health History Taskforce was formed, with members representing genealogists, clinicians, consumers, genetic researchers, universities, private businesses, libraries, public health, and non-profit groups. The Taskforce has developed a draft work plan to promote and coordinate family health history activities throughout Utah.

### **Genomics Program Invited to Present Results of Family History Data at National Workshop**

**February 23, 2006** – The Chronic Disease Genomics Program was asked to present the results of a 10-year evaluation at the CDC’s national “Use of Family History Information in Pediatric Primary Care and Public Health” workshop in Atlanta, Georgia. The data was collected from families who were at high-risk for a health problem based on their family history and who received interventions to help lower their risk. The results showed that families at high-risk for a health problem made behavior changes as a result of knowing their family health history.

### **Health Status Survey Brief: Health Care Access for Children**

**March 2006** - With 31.2 percent of Utah’s population aged 17 years or younger, Utah has one of the youngest populations in the nation. The Utah Health Status Survey (UHSS) asked parents throughout the state about health status and access to health care services for their children. UHSS information on child health is used to help guide decisions on important child health issues. This UHSS Brief reports on health care issues for Utah’s 788,500 children ages 17 and under.

[http://health.utah.gov/opha/publications/hssbriefs/HSS\\_Brief\\_ChildHealth.pdf](http://health.utah.gov/opha/publications/hssbriefs/HSS_Brief_ChildHealth.pdf)

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### **Youth Risk Behavior Survey Module Added to IBIS Query System**

**March 2006** – UDOH added the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) module to IBIS. The YRBS Survey data in this IBIS-Q query module is collected by the Utah State Office of Education as part of the biennial Utah School Health and Risk Prevention Survey (SHARP) project. The YRBS includes surveys of representative samples of 9th through 12th grade students in public schools. It collects uniform, state-specific data on risk behaviors that contribute to the leading causes of death, disability, and social problems among youth and adults. In addition to determining the prevalence of health risk behaviors, the YRBS assesses changes over time and allows comparisons to national data and data collected by other states.

[http://ibis.health.utah.gov/query/module\\_selection/yrbs/YRBSSelection.html](http://ibis.health.utah.gov/query/module_selection/yrbs/YRBSSelection.html)

### **New Seeded Position for Medicaid**

**March 2006** - Bureau of Eligibility Services added a new seeded eligibility position at Valley Mental Health. The new staff will improve access to Medicaid for customers who receive services through Valley Mental Health's treatment centers. Valley Mental Health has offices in Tooele, Park City and Salt Lake County. Valley Mental Health is Medicaid's largest mental health contractor.

### **State Primary Care Grants Program Receives Additional Funding**

**March 2006** - State Primary Care Grants Program received additional funding from the Utah Legislature during the 2006 session. An additional \$356,800 in one-time funding and \$100,000 in ongoing funding were appropriated to expand health care services to uninsured and underinsured individuals who are not eligible for CHIP, Medicaid, Medicare, private insurance, or the Primary Care Network. This additional funding brought the total funding to nearly \$1.4 million for the 2006-2007 fiscal year.

### **National Health Service Corps Recognizes the Utah Department of Health**

**March 2006** - National Health Service Corps recognized the UDOH for supporting 35 years of care to the underserved. The National Health Service Corps is a federal program that provides health care professionals with scholarships or loan repayment funding to complete a service commitment in medically underserved areas in Utah.

### **New Ad Campaign Prompts Smokers to Quit by Illustrating Everyday Drawbacks**

**March 2, 2006** - The stale smell of smoke on your clothes and in your car. The coughing fit every morning before you can get going for the day. Missing out on memory-making moments with your family because you're stuck outside smoking a cigarette. A new public awareness campaign was launched, illustrating the many difficulties smokers and those around them face. The underlying message of each of the advertisements was simple: "Make your life a little easier. Quit smoking." The campaign encouraged people who smoke to call the Utah Tobacco Quit Line at 1-888-567-TRUTH, or visit [utahquitnet.com](http://utahquitnet.com).

### **Get Active Utah Fitness Challenge Kickoff**

**March 4, 2006**

The Get Active Utah Fitness Challenge kicked off at the Utah Olympic Oval. The day began with Lt. Gov. Gary Herbert lighting the Summer Games torch and leading a Gold Medal Mile walk around the oval. Attendees then participated in several clinics, including speed skating, soccer, hockey, figure skating and stretching. Over 300 people attended the event.

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### **UCAN Promotes Colorectal Cancer Screening**

**March 9, 2006** – March was colon cancer awareness month. The Utah Cancer Action Network (UCAN) used this opportunity to talk about the successes of their colon cancer media campaign with the UDOH. In 2003, when the campaign began, only 41 percent of Utahns 50 and older had had a sigmoidoscopy or colonoscopy in the past five years. In 2005, that number increased to 51 percent. An “Ask the Expert” was also hosted on KUTV on March 2. Four physicians and eight UCAN volunteers staffed the phones for six hours. They took more than 250 phone calls from the community about colon cancer. Karen and Reggie, local colon cancer survivors from the campaign, also helped take calls.

### **Utah Names New Medicaid Director**

**March 10, 2006** – The UDOH announced the appointment of Michael Hales as the new director of the Division of Health Care Financing. The Division administers the Medicaid and CHIP programs, with approximately 235,000 Utahns currently enrolled. The position of Division Director was previously held by Michael Deily who served in this capacity for more than 10 years.

### **First Online Registration Developed for Diabetes in Utah Alliance Forum**

**March 16, 2006** – The Utah Diabetes Prevention and Control Program posted its first online registration for the Diabetes in Utah Alliance Forum on their Web site. The online registration is used as an up-to-date tool of technology, and reduces the amount of paper and electronic communication. As a result of the registration, registrants are automatically entered into a CSV or Excel spreadsheet for easy download.

### **Local Health Departments Receive Grant Money to Establish Medical Reserve Corps**

**April 2006** – Sub-grants of \$15,000 were provided to local health departments to establish a Medical Reserve Corps (MRCs) in their jurisdictions. MRCs include retired physicians and other licensed professional healthcare personnel. MRCs will be vital during disasters or public health emergencies that result in a surge and overflow of patients needing immediate healthcare.

### **“Connecting as Unified Partners” Annual Emergency Services Leadership Conference**

**April 2006** – UDOH and the Department of Public Safety kicked off the Emergency Services Leadership Conference with Lt. Governor Gary R. Herbert and keynote speaker Ms. Nancy Bourgeois, director of Emergency Services in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Ms. Bourgeois presented “Katrina Lessons Learned.”

### **2004 Health Status Survey Insurance Report**

**April 2006** - The 2004 Utah Health Status Survey Report: Health Insurance Coverage described the health insurance status of Utahns in 2004, based on data from the 2004 Utah Health Status Survey. The findings were organized around the following four themes:

- *A Profile of Utahns Without Coverage* presented the proportion of uninsured Utahns by selected demographic, socio-economic, geographic, and health status variables.
- *Lack of Coverage in Utah: The Nature of the Problem* reported on characteristics of uninsured persons, such as how long people have been without coverage and the main reasons for not having coverage.
- *Health Insurance Coverage by Plan Type* described health insurance coverage by type of plans individuals have and presents some characteristics of those individuals.

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- *Adequacy of Coverage* showed the current estimates for the percentage of Utahns with coverage and information concerning whether they reported problems obtaining medical care.

[http://health.utah.gov/opha/publications/2004hss/ins/2004HSS\\_Ins\\_Report.htm](http://health.utah.gov/opha/publications/2004hss/ins/2004HSS_Ins_Report.htm)

### **New IBIS Indicator Profile: Giardia Infection**

**April 2006** – UDOH added the Giardia Infection indicator profile to IBIS. A health indicator is a numeric measure that depicts the status of a population or a health system on a core public health construct. An indicator profile is a brief online report that contains numerical data for a health indicator as well as its public health context, including what the current status is and what is being done to improve it. The new Giardia Infection indicator profile is important because Giardia lamblia is the most common intestinal parasite identified by public health laboratories in the U.S.

<http://ibis.health.utah.gov/indicator/view/GiaInf.Yr.html>

### **Spine Injuries Paralyze Dozens of Utahns Annually**

**April 4, 2006** - From 1998-2003, nearly 400 Utahns suffered spinal cord injuries (SCIs) in motor vehicle crashes, falls, suicide attempts and sports mishaps. A new report by the UDOH showed that the majority of victims were living with some degree of paralysis. Seventy-two percent of spinal cord injury victims were male, and those ages 15-24 were at highest risk of SCI. Motor vehicle crashes were the cause in 48 percent of all SCIs. During the study period, there was an average of one motor vehicle-related SCI every 14 days. The report also found the majority of SCIs could have been prevented by simply wearing a seat belt.

### **Phoenix Alliance Youth "Drop Dead" at Library Square Plaza**

**April 5, 2006** - In recognition of the national event, Kick Butts Day, Utah's Phoenix Alliance youth "dropped dead," falling to the ground to demonstrate the extreme consequences of tobacco use. Youth also educated bystanders and passers-by about the impact of tobacco in Utah.

### **Utah First in Nation to Hold Asthma Genomics Workshop**

**April 12, 2006** – The Utah Asthma Taskforce and the UDOH Chronic Disease Genomics Program held the first-ever workshop in the nation to develop a plan for integrating genomics into asthma activities. Leaders from around the state joined in discussions on pharmacogenomics, family health history, and the ethical, legal, and social issues surrounding genetics and asthma. National and local experts as well as representatives from the Utah State Legislature spoke to over 65 attendees.

### **Evaluation Tool for Continuing Diabetes Education**

**April 19, 2006** - An evaluation tool was developed through an online survey instrument called Zoomerang in order to assess the impact of a continuing diabetes education program called Telehealth. The Diabetes Telehealth Program is coordinated on the third Wednesday of every month at lunchtime. Topics are identified by program participants, and speakers are identified through partnerships. Average attendance is around 80 participants a month. The evaluation tool consists of four pre-test and four post-test questions in order to measure performance. For analysis purposes, the online survey instrument automatically prepares a report for the Utah Diabetes Prevention and Control Program. The evaluation tool was developed in response to a recommendation by the CDC Division of Diabetes Translation and has been effective in measuring performance thus far.

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### **Contracts Approved for Managed Care**

**April, 28, 2006** - The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services approved the Medicaid Healthy U, IHC Access, and Molina contracts. Both the Molina and Healthy U approval letters specifically stated that the contracts “comply with applicable federal regulations, including requirements for non-risk contracts pursuant to the regulations at 42 CFR 447.362.”

### **Drowning a Leading Killer of Utah Kids**

**April 29, 2006** - After motor vehicle crashes, drowning is the second leading cause of unintentional injury death among Utah children aged 14 and younger. From 2003 to 2005, 35 children in that age group died in bathtubs, pools, ponds and rivers. To combat the problem, the UDOH and Safe Kids Utah launched Safe Kids Week 2006 with the drowning prevention initiative “Safe Pools for Safe Kids.” The “Safe Pools” program calls on adults to watch children near water every minute and to never let a young child bathe with an older sibling.

### **Smoke-Free Utah Starts Now! First Provisions of Amended UICAA Go Into Effect**

**May 1, 2006** - In response to changes made to the Utah Indoor Clean Air Act, workplace, child care facilities and all school buildings went smoke free. A new public awareness campaign designed to educate and promote the benefits of the changes launched with a May 4 media event. The UDOH invited the public to go downtown for a breath of fresh air as they embarked on a tour of smoke-free establishments.

### **Coordination of Care Training**

**May 4, 2006** - The Bureau of Managed Health Care organized a statewide in-service called *Collaboration: The Key to Coordination*. The purpose of the training was to provide information on the various types of care coordination opportunities for Medicaid clients. Areas of discussion included the medical and mental health Medicaid managed care plans, home and community-based waivers, programs for children with special health care needs, fostering health children, and targeted case management. Approximately 80 people attended in-person and an additional 20 participated by video conference at local health departments throughout the state.

### **Uninsured Parents May Now Enroll in Utah’s Primary Care Network**

**May 8, 2006** – With the number of uninsured Utahns growing every year, enrollment for Primary Care Network of the UDOH re-opened to parents. Enrollment remained open until all 4,000 available spaces were filled.

### **“Serving on Health Care’s Front Line” — UDOH Pays Tribute to Utah’s Emergency Medical Services Community at Annual Awards Ceremony**

**May 15, 2006** - The UDOH’s Emergency Medical Services (EMS) held their annual EMS Awards ceremony, launching the 2006 National EMS Week. The awards ceremony honored and paid tribute to Utah’s Emergency Medical Health Care professionals who served on health care’s front line and diligently cared for and helped those in need.

### **First Hospital Comparison Report on Cardiac Surgeries and Conditions**

**May 16, 2006** - The Utah Health Data Committee, staffed by the Office of Health Care Statistics, released its second hospital comparison report to help consumers compare Utah hospitals' heart care, based on cost, quality and patient safety. The heart report tracked factors such as in-hospital mortality, average charges, length of stay and how frequently each hospital performs specific heart procedures. Utah is one of only eight states in the nation publishing reports that compare hospitals for the benefit of consumers. Utah's efforts have been publicly



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commended by Governor Jon M. Huntsman, Jr., and Carolyn Clancy M.D., director of the federal Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality.

### **The TRUTH Campaign Announces Contest Winners at a Celebrity-style Celebration**

**May 22, 2006** - The UDOH announced the 2006 winners of the ninth annual TRUTH from Youth Anti-tobacco Advertising Contest award ceremony at a celebrity-styled ceremony. Eleven fourth- and fifth-graders from across Utah received movie-star treatment as they "Walked the Red Carpet." After the award ceremony, the winners joined hundreds of other fourth- and fifth-graders who entered the contest at a movie premiere. Additional movie premieres took place in Providence and Richfield for youth across the state.

### **Pregnant Women and Smoking Cessation**

**May 24, 2006** - The Medicaid Managed Care System was enhanced to send an alert for every pregnant woman not responding to the tobacco survey. Shortly after implementation, the health program representatives (HPRs) received over 1,000 alerts. HPRs contact pregnant women every six weeks during their pregnancy to provide information and encouragement to quit the use of tobacco.

### **Get Active Utah Winners Announced**

**June 15, 2006** - The Get Active Utah Fitness Challenge awards were handed out at the Utah Summer Games Opening Ceremonies. The winners were as follows:

- Individual: Carol Widdison, Kaysville - 1,367.83 miles
- Family: Fabulous Four – Shurtleff Family, West Jordan - 3,078.43 miles
- School: Creekview Elementary, Price - 52,134.48 miles (456 students)
- Group: Graceful Gliders, Roosevelt, Altamont and Uintah – 2,944.95 miles (12 members)
- Large City: Salt Lake City - 55,161,44 miles
- Medium City: Centerville - 54,416 miles
- Small City: Price - 75,310.63 miles

As many as 1,354 Utahns signed up for the Challenge. Between March 4 and June 5, they logged 809,615 total miles. They also competed with over 100,000 Gold Medal Mile students and thousands of other Utahns who regularly log their fitness miles at [www.utahwalks.org](http://www.utahwalks.org).

### **Backman Elementary Diabetes Pilot Project**

**June 22, 2006** - A pilot project was completed at Backman Elementary of the Salt Lake School District focusing on the issues of diabetes. The goal of the project was to identify individuals at risk for developing diabetes so that action could be taken to either prevent or treat their condition. Activities of the project included the dissemination of a screening tool, making referrals to appropriate health care, increasing physical activity and healthy eating behaviors, and organizing a diabetes screening event. Parents were the primary audience of the project, and the secondary audience consisted of the students at Backman. During the screening event, several individuals were identified as high risk, including those of Hispanic and Polynesian descent.

### **State Submits Request to Continue Primary Care Network**

**June 23, 2006** - The Primary Care Network (PCN) run by the UDOH was authorized by a federal waiver of requirements of the Medicaid program. States are required to renew waivers every five years. As PCN neared the end of its initial five-year period, UDOH convened a task force of health care providers and advocates to discuss the future of PCN. UDOH has requested

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an extension of the waiver for another three years and sought some program modifications, including adding urgent care coverage to PCN benefits.

### **State Seeks Approval of a New Program to Cover the Uninsured**

**June 26, 2006** - The UDOH submitted a request to the federal government to operate a new program for families. The program would provide a rebate to low-income families when they enroll in their employer-sponsored health insurance plans. Each month, families could receive a rebate up to \$150 per adult and \$120 per child. The Legislature authorized funding for up to 1,000 adults in the program. UDOH estimates 250 children will also enroll.

### **UDOH Joins Police Targeting Dangerous Drivers and Bicyclists**

**June 29, 2006** - The UDOH joined forces with local police departments in an effort to reduce bicyclist injuries and deaths. From 1999-2004, 8,717 bicyclists were hit by motor vehicles and 63 were killed, making Utah's death rate 11<sup>th</sup> highest in the nation. To combat the problem, the UDOH Violence and Injury Prevention Program obtained grant funds to pay overtime to police officers to catch drivers and bicyclists who break traffic laws. Called Bicycle Safety Enforcement Actions, the program puts decoy officer on bikes on busy roads. More officers follow in chase vehicles looking for motorists who crowd riders off the road, make illegal turns in front of riders or don't yield right-of-way. They also look for cyclists making similar violations. Everyone who is pulled over receives a ticket or warning and a pamphlet on how to safely share the road.

### ***Exploring Medicaid Mailing Improved***

**June 30, 2006** - The Medicaid client education booklet, *Exploring Medicaid*, is now automatically being mailed via the Medicaid Managed Care System to new enrollees (one per household per year). The booklet is a huge timesaver for both health program representatives and Bureau of Eligibility workers.

### **UDOH Awards Funding to Health Care Professionals Serving Underserved Populations**

**June 30, 2006** - Health Care Workforce Financial Assistance Program awarded \$460,300 to 26 health care professionals serving Utah medically underserved populations. Health care professionals, and the employment sites that they work at, must agree to serve Children's Health Insurance Program, Medicaid, Medicare, Primary Care Network, uninsured, and underinsured individuals, and must have a sliding fee scale or charitable policy that does not turn individuals away, regardless of their ability to pay.